



MassHealth Pharmacy Program Pain Initiative

A. Schedule II Long-acting Narcotic Analgesics

1. The following Schedule II long-acting narcotic analgesics require prior authorization (PA) for the doses indicated.
 - levorphanol (Levo-Dromoran#) – PA > 32 mg/day
 - methadone (Dolophine#, Methadose) – PA > 120 mg/day
 - morphine controlled-release (MS Contin #, Oramorph SR, generics) – PA > 360 mg/day
 - morphine sustained-release (Kadian) – PA > 360 mg/day
2. The following Schedule II short-acting narcotic analgesics require PA for the doses indicated.
 - codeine – PA > 360 mg/day
 - hydromorphone (Dilaudid #) – PA > 60 mg/day
 - morphine immediate release (MS/L, MSIR, OMS, Roxanol, Roxanol-T) – PA > 360mg/day
 - oxycodone immediate release (Endocodone, Oxydose, OxyFast, OxyIR, Roxicodone) – PA > 240 mg/day

B. Narcotic Analgesics That Require PA for All Dosage Forms and Strengths

Note: Additional information is required for Narcotic requests that exceed dose or quantity limits. Please provide medical records and complete Section III of the Narcotic Prior Authorization Request form when requesting PA for quantities or doses in excess of the limits listed below.

- fentanyl transmucosal system (Actiq, Fentora) – PA
- fentanyl transdermal system (Duragesic) – PA (See Note above if > 200 mcg/hour.)
- meperidine (Demerol) – PA (See Note above if > 750 mg/day.)
- morphine extended-release (Avinza) – PA (See Note above if > 360 mg/day.)
- narcotic powders (hydromorphone, levorphanol, methadone, morphine, oxycodone) – PA
- oxycodone controlled release (OxyContin, generics) – PA (See Note above if > 240 mg/day.)
- oxymorphone immediate release (Opana) – PA (See Note above if > 120 mg/day.)
- oxymorphone extended-release (Opana ER) – PA (See Note above if > 120 mg/day.)

C. Opioid Therapy Algorithm

The opioid therapy algorithm is intended as a guide for providers when prescribing narcotic analgesics. Please consider this algorithm when beginning or changing narcotic analgesics for MassHealth members.

- Step 1:** non-narcotic analgesics -NSAIDS/Acetaminophen
– If neuropathic pain, consider tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), anticonvulsants
- Step 2:** short-acting narcotic analgesics (acute pain)
- Step 3:** long-acting morphine SR
- Step 4:** methadone (if clinically appropriate)
- Step 5:** oxycodone CR
- Step 6:** fentanyl
- Step 7:** oxymorphone

D. Duplicate Narcotic Therapy

PA is required for members taking \geq two long-acting narcotics for > three months.

This is a brand-name drug with FDA “A” rated-generic equivalents. PA is required for the brand, unless a particular form of that drug does not have an FDA “A” rated generic equivalent.